

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 55

By Camper

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Larry Dodson, Sr., on the celebration of his seventieth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, renowned rhythm and blues/funk/soul singer, producer, author, and philanthropist Larry Dodson, Sr., of Memphis is celebrating his seventieth birthday on January 22, 2021; and

WHEREAS, for forty-seven years, Mr. Dodson was a trendsetter and brilliant entertainer as the lead singer of The Bar-Kays, with whom he sold millions of records all over the world with more than twenty top ten singles, thirty albums, and numerous gold and platinum records; and

WHEREAS, now a solo artist, Mr. Dodson is back on stage touring as "Larry D. Original Lead Singer of The Bar-Kays"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dodson and his son, Larry Jr., recently formed a new record label, Music Moves Records, which will release Larry D.'s first single as a solo artist, "I'm Good"; a supporting album is slated for release in late 2021; and

WHEREAS, in September 2017, Mr. Dodson released his autobiography, *And The Band Plays On: The Life Story of Larry Dodson*; and

WHEREAS, a proud graduate of Memphis's Carver High School, Larry Dodson, Sr., is the co-founder of JEA/Right Now Records with Bar-Kays founding member James Alexander; and

WHEREAS, he is also the owner of a full-service entertainment booking agency, LaMarie's Entertainment Complex, which he operates with his family; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dodson is an advocate for the Down Syndrome Association of the Mid-South and historically black colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, he has received an honorary doctorate degree from LeMoyne-Owen College, which he supports through the annual Allen Jones/Marjorie Barringer/Bar-Kays Scholarship; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dodson is the spokesperson for and minority owner of a premium liquor, Guidance Whiskey; and

WHEREAS, the City of Memphis has renamed a street in honor of Larry Dodson, Sr., to commemorate his indelible legacy as the original lead singer of The Bar-Kays and as a community hero and dedicated public servant; and

WHEREAS, he is fortunate to celebrate his seventieth birthday with his wife, Marie Dodson, and children, Precious and Larry Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Larry Dodson, Sr., has made the world a better place through music, and we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Larry Dodson, Sr., on the celebration of his seventieth birthday and extend to him our best wishes for many happy returns of the day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.